

THE HOME OF THE "PECAN GROVE FARM" MAN.

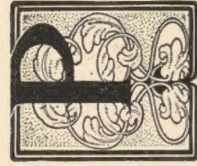
IN AND AROUND

PECAN GROVE FARM

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PROPRIETOR.

CAIRO, GA.

$\frac{2}{3}$ NATURAL SIZE



PECAN GROVE FARM contains one hundred and forty acres of groves and about twenty-five acres in nurseries. It had its beginning twenty-three years ago when a few nuts were planted from which I have only two trees. Three years later some twenty acres were planted; and two years thereafter sixty additional acres were planted. These were all seedlings, the nuts being planted where the future trees were to grow.

SOME EXPERIENCE has been one of the dividends from these trees. One lesson is this: *Don't set seedlings*. The nuts from these trees which have come into bearing vary all the way from the size of the end of one's little finger up to fine fellows, fifty of which will weigh a pound. But only one tree bears the latter; and in quantity produced they are too much like angels' visits.

Some of these trees came into bearing at a reasonably early age, and are annually yielding good crops; others seem loth to exert themselves, as is evidenced by occasional shy crops of nuts with frequent misses; and there are others still that seem bent on reserving their nuts until my four score year is reached, when they may possibly cheer my declining years with fruitful harvests.



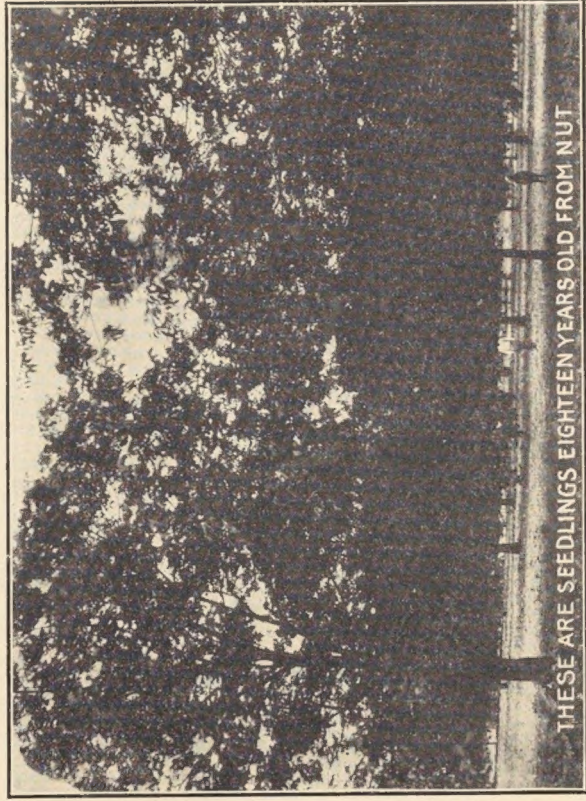
SOME YOUNG. FROTSCHERS EIGHT YEARS OLD THAT HAVE A GOOD CROP OF NUTS.

DON'T SET RUNTY TREES. Some of these I have grown myself; others have been bought from nurserymen at from fifty cents to one dollar each. Most of these have been cut down as cumberers of the ground. A tree that is a runt in the nursery is almost sure to prove a dwarf in the grove.

TAKE CARE OF YOUR TREES. For fourteen years after starting with pecans I had other work to do, and so the pecan trees were left to the tender mercies of indifferent tenants, with the result that the soil washed off, the land deteriorated, and the growth of the weeds and grass was more in evidence than that of the trees. One tree well cared for will prove more profitable than a half dozen which are neglected; and no one should set out a thousand trees when he can properly care for only five hundred.

WHY I STARTED.

I started to grow pecans because I thought there was money in the business. A few trees were growing in my neighborhood, which annually yielded from one hundred to two hundred pounds of nuts, that sold at from eight to twelve cents per pound. It was reasoned that if one tree proved



THESE ARE SEEDLINGS EIGHTEEN YEARS OLD FROM NUT

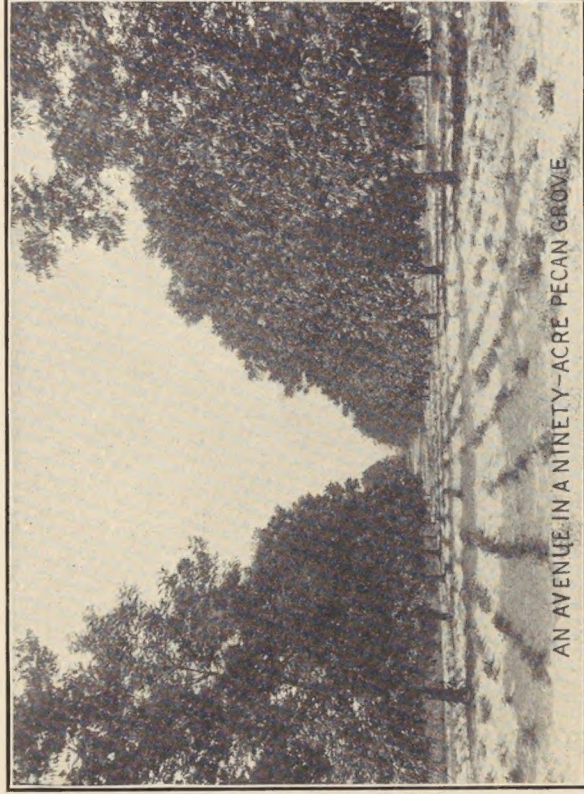
profitable, then why should not a hundred or a thousand do as well. I decided that if I could sell the nuts at ten cents per pound there was more money to be made in growing pecans than in making cotton.

DISAPPOINTED?

No; on the contrary my faith in the pecan industry has grown with the years; and it was never stronger than at the present time. Why?

(1) The advent of the budded and grafted pecan has removed the greatest uncertainty in the pecan industry. One may now not only be sure that his trees will bear, but that they will do so at a reasonably early age. And further he may know that in the quality and quantity of the product he will have something that is worth while.

(2) There is a better market at higher prices for pecans now than there was twenty-five years ago. Only a very small part of the world has yet learned the good qualities of the pecan. Like first-class people, it improves on acquaintance. The bug-a-boo of over production need not disturb one during the present century.

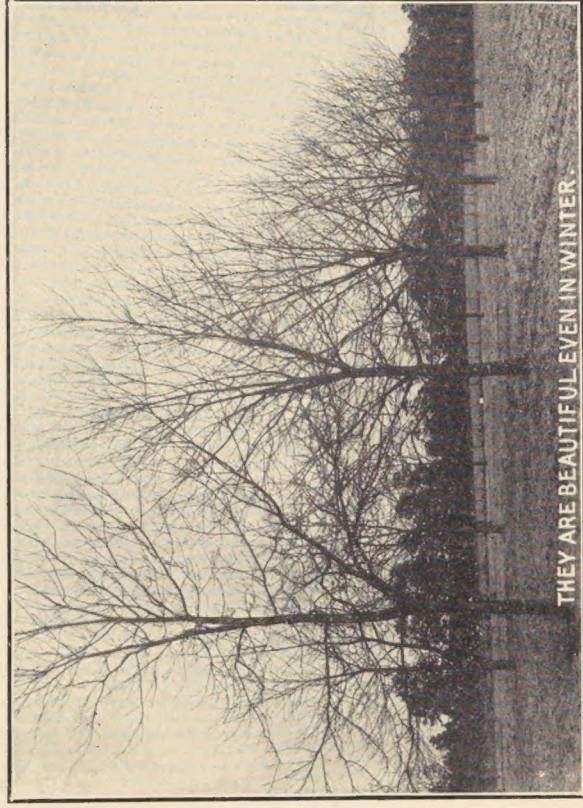


AN AVENUE IN A NINETY-ACRE PECAN GROVE

(3) ONE DOES NOT HAVE TO WAIT A LIFETIME FOR RESULTS. Well cared for, a tree may begin bearing the third or fourth year after setting, but not much of consequence should be expected until the seventh or eighth year (an occasional over-enthusiastic promoter to the contrary notwithstanding). After the twelfth year a thousand pounds per acre should be realized; and by the twentieth year it is not unreasonable to expect from two thousand to three thousand pounds per acre. And this can be done as easily as a bale of cotton per acre is produced. But the nervous and impatient man ought not to grow pecans; they are too long in coming into profitable bearing—onions and turnips are sooner harvested, and will suit *him* better.

These are a few of the things I have learned since I started to grow pecans. Had I known then what I do now, many mistakes would have been avoided; and I should by this time have been able to buy an easy chair and rest a bit. As it is, I am still very busy correcting old errors, and trying to avoid new ones.

But if you want to visit my nursery and orchard, to see what is to be seen, and to learn to avoid some of the holes into which I have stumbled, I shall be glad to take the time to show what is there.



THEY ARE BEAUTIFUL EVEN IN WINTER.



The above tree stands on my home lot in Cairo. It was bought for two dollars when three feet high, and set January, 1892. A careful record of this tree has been kept. The first column gives the circumference of the tree, three feet from the ground, at the end of the year indicated. The second column gives the weight of the nuts produced each year.

	CIRCUMFERENCE.	NUTS IN POUNDS.
1894.....	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches	
1895.....	12 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches	1 nut.
1896.....	14 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches	7 lbs.
1897.....	20 inches	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
1898.....	25 inches	13 $\frac{3}{4}$ it s.
1899.....	29 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches	27 lbs.
1900.....	33 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches	16 lbs.
1901.....	37 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches	45 lbs.
1902.....	40 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches	80 lbs.
1903.....	44 inches	121 lbs.
1904.....	46 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches	131 lbs.
1905.....	50 inches	96 lbs.
1906.....	53 inches	30 lbs.
1907.....	56 inches	169 lbs.
1908.....	59 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches	352 lbs.
1909.....	62 inches	

Since it began bearing this tree has been severely cut for budding wood, and hence its bearing has been to some extent retarded. The nuts from this tree have readily sold at from fifty to sixty cents per pound. One hundred and forty yards south of this tree stands another tree, twenty-three years old from the seed, which is owned by Mr. K. Powell, and which for the last two years has yielded over four hundred pounds of nuts annually.

VARIETY TESTS.

About forty different varieties of pecans are being tested on the farm. Some of these have fruited, others have not. Some of them, however, have already shown themselves to be very valuable; others have proved worthless; while others still are yet in the trial stage. But enough has been learned to convince one that the question of variety is a most important one. Old varieties like Frottscher, Schley, and Stuart, are most excellent nuts; and while the future may produce a better pecan than any of these, yet no other has made clear its title to the head of the list.

THE NURSERY.

Connected with the farm is a nursery exclusively of pecans. It was begun in order to supply trees for my own groves; but gradually it has enlarged until the overflow that goes into other groves is greater than what is annually set in my own. During an experience of twenty-three years many things have been learned as to the proper manner in which to grow, dig, and pack pecan trees. My customers get the benefit of these. It is a well established rule never to sell to others a tree that is not considered fit to transplant to my own groves. Thousands of trees have been shipped into the territory between New York and Mexico. And while no word of commendation of these trees has ever been requested, yet many testimonials have voluntarily come to me as to the satisfaction given. I take the liberty of adding a few of these.

WHAT THEY SAY.

"Two trees bought of you two years ago are bearing, one had four and the other six pecans."—J. F. BRANNEN, Statesboro, Ga.

"Not one of the trees (200) you sent me so far have died; one thought to be dead was pulled up and it had sprouted below the bud, so it was replanted, and later came out above the bud."—J. F. BROOKS, M.D., Montemorelos, Mexico.

"All the trees I have purchased from you are doing finely and I hope to get good results from them."—F. M. HATCH, Soldier Creek, Ala.

"I was down at Whiteville, La., about one week ago and almost all of the trees I planted last winter were coming out, notwithstanding the dry spring. I am well pleased with your trees."—J. T. MCKINNON, Siloam Springs, Ark.

"The trees came in good form, and they are beauties."—E. H. MCMICHAEL, Buena Vista, Ga.

"The trees are the finest that I ever saw."—H. S. WARD, Washington, N. C.

"Of all parties I bought from, I like your trees best, besides, I think you are honest and conscientious."—T. H. SPENCER, Birmingham, Ala.

"I was much pleased with the appearance of the trees."—HENRY C. HAMMOND, Augusta, Ga.

"I believe that if you will send me as well rooted trees and as carefully packed as those you sent last winter, I can make them grow without cutting back."—N. D. SMITH, M.D., Jonesboro, La.

If you want to know more, write me, or better, come to see me.

J. B. WIGHT, Cairo, Ga.